

From: Cole, James F
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2005 7:57 AM
To: Sutton, Susan M
Subject: FW: FM's Comment on Washington Post's Article

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From: Sutheerat, Somyot
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2005 7:40 AM
To: Cole, James F
Subject: FM's Comment on Washington Post's Article

Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon Gives Clarification on the Washington Post Article

November 3, 2005, 6:21 pm

On 2 November 2005, the article "CIA Holds Terror Suspects in Secret Prisons" published by the Washington Post disclosed that the CIA is hiding and interrogating its terrorist suspects, which includes some of its important Al Qaeda captives, in secret facilities referred to as "black sites" located in several countries throughout the world, including Thailand.

On 3 November 2005, H.E. Dr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, gave an interview to the Thai press refuting the claims in the above-mentioned reports, pointing out that the Thai Government has no knowledge and information whatsoever on the matter. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand will coordinate with the United States through the US Embassy based in Bangkok to undertake an investigation on the news report.

From: Sutheerat, Somyot
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2005 5:34 PM
To: Cole, James F
Subject: RE: ARTICLES on AQ suspects in Thailand

Prime Minister Thaksin, at his weekly meet the press conference this afternoon, said in English in respond to a question by a foreign reporter on the Washington's Post article naming Thailand as one of eight secret sites operated by the CIA in detaining top al-Qaeda operatives that "You know sometimes the famous name doesn't have to 'reliable,' you are talking about the Washington Post. The CIA Spokesman has come out to deny the allegations already. Especially for Thailand we have no information at all. We have only one arrest, Hambali, and we already sent him to the US already long ago. We have no detention or any secret jails whatsoever. So we therefore totally deny."

Meanwhile, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs agreed to set up a sub-committee to make a study on the Washington Post's article.

From: Cole, James F
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2005 11:29 AM
To: Chansiri, Chanchaw
Cc: Sutheerat, Somyot
Subject: RE: ARTICLES on AQ suspects in Thailand

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Okay, please keep an eye on the media (radio and TV too). Issues have a way of flaring and then disappearing in Bangkok, so this may end up being a tempest in a teacup. Thanks. Jim

From: Chansiri, Chanchaw
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2005 11:27 AM
To: Cole, James F
Cc: Sutheerat, Somyot
Subject: RE: ARTICLES on AQ suspects in Thailand

I found no other reaction nor public comment in any Thai press of today than the initial comment given by the Government Spokesman as mentioned in the e-mail of Khun Somyot. If any of such info is found later on, we will give you a summary.

Regards,
Tuk

From: Cole, James F
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2005 11:19 AM
To: Sutheerat, Somyot ; Chansiri, Chanchaw
Subject: RE: ARTICLES on AQ suspects in Thailand

Could you prepare a summary (1-2 paragraphs) today on Thai general reaction to this article? I'm not looking to solicit people's comments – would prefer this whole thing quietly fade away, but I'm interested in any public comments (or the lack of public comments). Thanks. Jim

From: Sutheerat, Somyot
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2005 8:30 AM
To: Cole, James F
Cc: Chansiri, Chanchaw
Subject: RE: ARTICLES on AQ suspects in Thailand

The Thai government has not yet issued any statement or formal reactions to the article on the Washington Post except an initial comment from the Government Spokesman Surapong Suebwonglee, who categorically denied the existence of secret sites operated by the CIA to detain and interrogate al-Qaeda operatives in Thailand, and said the Government will assign the MFA to clarify this issue to the international community. Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon has just said on the radio program that the Government has no information related to this article, and has already instructed the Ministry to coordinate with the US Embassy in Bangkok to seek further information. We will monitor and keep you updated

From: Cole, James F
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2005 8:00 AM
To: Chansiri, Chanchaw
Cc: Sutheerat, Somyot
Subject: ARTICLES on AQ suspects in Thailand

Could you forward whatever you have on RTG reactions to Washington Post article alleging Al Qaeda prisoners being held in Thailand. Thanks. Jim